

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08TRIPOLI430, DIE HARD IN DERNA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08TRIPOLI430**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08TRIPOLI430	2008-06-02 16:59	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN	Embassy Tripoli

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/05/01/113440/libyan-city-struggles-with-history.html>

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VZCZCXRO9119
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHTRO #0430/01 1541659
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 021659Z JUN 08
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3484
INFO RUEHDE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0484
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0806
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY 0022
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 3989
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 TRIPOLI 000430

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG, S/CT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 5/27/2018  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [LY](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: DIE HARD IN DERNA

REF: TRIPOLI 120

TRIPOLI 00000430 001.2 OF 004 CLASSIFIED BY: Chris Stevens, CDA, U.S. Embassy - Tripoli, Dept of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d) 1. (C)

Summary: Frustration at the inability of eastern Libyans to effectively challenge Qadhafi's regime, together with a concerted ideological campaign

12. (C) P/E Chief paid an unofficial visit to the eastern Libyan town of Derna in early May in conjunction with a trip to Benghazi and the ancient
13. (C) P/E Chief visited the Baab al-Shiha neighborhood, site of the town's old fort (now all but gone) and the district from which a large number
14. (C) A number of residents were on the streets; however, they were visibly more wary and less friendly than in other Libyan towns. XXXXXXXXX
15. (C) Over lunch at a popular restaurant just off the waterfront, XXXXXXXXXX and his business partner (who declined to give his name) discussed
16. (C) There was a strong perception, he said, that the U.S. had decided in the wake of Qadhafi's decision to abandon WMD aspirations and renounced
17. (C) Rejecting the idea that Derna was uniformly extremist, XXXXXXXXXX and his business partner described the town as being divided between
18. (C) According to XXXXXXXXXX, these returned former fighters deliberately targeted towns and areas known to be less heavily surveilled and
19. (C) A dearth of social outlets for young people in Derna "created space" for the message of returned fighters and conservative imams, who claimed
20. (C) The fact that Derna's educational system was weak had also enabled conservative clerics. XXXXXXXXXX described a situation in which many
21. (C) XXXXXXXXXX attributed the flow of foreign fighters from Derna in part to local pride in the town's reputation as a historical locus
22. (C) Claiming "most Libyans" shared that sentiment, XXXXXXXXXX proudly said the difference was that Derna's sons actually acted on their
23. (C) As discussed reftel, XXXXXXXXXX drew a direct line between the parlous local economy and the willingness of Derna's TRIPOLI 00000430
24. (C) In addition, while Benghazi and other parts of eastern Libya had benefited in the last several years from increased government patronage
25. (C) Comment: XXXXXXXXXX remarks suggest that frustration at the inability of eastern Libyans to effectively challenge Qadhafi's regime,